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Senate says schools must recite pledge daily

LANSING – All K-12 public schools in Michigan would be required to offer the pledge of allegiance daily under legislation passed today in the Senate, announced Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township.

Senate Bill 144 also states that individual students will not be required to say the pledge if they or their parents object.

“The pledge of allegiance is an important and historical part of living in America,” said Birkholz, sponsor of the bill. “We want to keep this tradition alive, while recognizing that some students may not want to recite the pledge for cultural or religious reasons. This legislation allows schools to continue saying the pledge on a daily basis while maintaining individual’s rights.”

The bill also would allow public schools to recite the pledge or sign the national anthem at after-school activities, such as athletic events, in at least ninth through twelfth grade.

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